



St. Peter's Caversham  
**The Pebble**

5 JULY, 2015

14 TH SUNDAY, YEAR B

**FAREWELL SPEECH**

More have I not to say, my Lords, but that like as the blessed Apostle St Paul, as we read in the Acts of the Apostles, was present, and consented to the death of St Stephen, and kept their clothes that stoned him to death, and yet be they now both twain holy Saints in heaven, and shall continue there friends for ever, so I verily trust, and shall heartily pray, that though your Lordships have now here in the earth been judges to my condemnation, we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together, to our everlasting salvation

*Thomas Moore*

*Final words to the judges who condemned him to death*

How we respond to rejection, disappointment and bad news is in fact a key test of our maturity of character. Whether your style is stiff upper lip, or a Mediterranean display of feelings doesn't really matter. As Rowan Williams used to say to us at Mirfield, the sacrament of failure teaches us things about ourselves and about reality that we would never find out any other way. It is an invitation to live at a greater depth than we have attempted before.

*Hugh Bowron*

**A Warm Welcome**  
to all who are sharing with us in worship today. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Eucharist.

**The Liturgy for Today:**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

**HYMNS:**

238 New every morning is the love

468 Through the night of doubt and sorrow

483 The Church of God a kingdom is

276 Bread of heaven

252 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended

**READINGS FOR TODAY**

[Ezekiel 2: 2-5](#)

[2 Corinthians 12: 7-10](#)

[Mark 6: 1-6](#)

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

[Amos 7: 12-15](#)

[Ephesians 1: 3-14](#)

[Mark 6: 7-13](#)

**Parish News**

**Today's sermon** focuses on the theme of rejection based on the Ezekiel and the Gospel reading, hence the quotes on the front cover of the Pebble.

**St Peters to host Synod Sunday Service** The Bishop has requested that St Peters host the Synod Sunday Service on Sunday 20 September at 8 am. This will be our main Service of the day in the style of the 10.30 am Sung Eucharist, with the Vicar being the preacher. He will also be the chaplain to the Synod. The parish will then host the Synod breakfast. Please make contact with Alex Chisholm, Heather Brooks or Ronda Tatnell if you can help with

the breakfast. The Sunday session of Synod will now meet in the St Peters hall.

**Evensong and Benediction** This evening at 5 pm, followed by a social gathering in the lounge afterwards.

**Frances Hodgkins Service** The Frances Hodgkins House group meets tomorrow Monday at 2 pm in the Garden Lounge.

**St Peters Festival of Flowers** St Peters will be hosting a Festival of Flowers over the weekend of 17-18 October based around the theme of St Peter the fisherman. Parishioners may recall the very successful similar event which came to us for the first time last year. This event will be provided by the Dunedin Floral Art Society, of which our Faye-Noel Brown is the President. The Vestry resolved at its last meeting to provide some financial support for the Festival.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary registration** It is important that parishioners register for the parish 150th anniversary celebrations over the weekend of 26-27 September, in addition to the former parishioners from out of town. You can do this by filling in a registration form which is available at the back of the Church and putting it in the box by the forms, or by emailing [150th@stpeterscaversham.org.nz](mailto:150th@stpeterscaversham.org.nz). Dorice Preston will be joining us that weekend. Would anyone be able to offer her a bed for the Saturday night?

**St Barnabas AGM** St Barnabas will hold its AGM on Tuesday evening at 7 pm.

**Wardens meeting** The Vicar will meet with the Wardens on Monday 13 July. Please mention any matters you want raised at that meeting to Kate Paterson or Tubby Hopkins.

**News update** The diocese would like the majority of parishioners to receive its weekly e-newsletter. It is a cheap and effective way to keep up to date with what is happening around the diocese. You can sign up at [www.calledsouth.org.nz/email-newsletter](http://www.calledsouth.org.nz/email-newsletter)

**Pray for the Sick and Infirm** Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Jun Miyagi, Shirley Menzies, Margaret Sterling, Anita Stevens, Mahlia Napier, George, Nonie and Rachel Connor, and Denise Walker.

**Pray for those whose memorial occurs at this time:**

Beatrice Allen, Arch McQuarrie, Lesley Morris, Darcy Steele and Rosanne Carruthers.

**TEC General Convention** The Episcopal Church's General Convention in Salt Lake City has now drawn to a close. The Convention elected an Afro-American, Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, as its new Presiding Bishop, the first time an Afro-American has held this office. It redefined marriage, and authorised two new marriage rites applicable to both heterosexual and same-sex couples. The Archbishop of Canterbury has responded with a communique expressing "deep concern about the stress for the Anglican Communion following the US Episcopal Church's House of Bishop's resolution to change the definition of marriage in the canons so that any reference to marriage as between a man and a woman is removed." So far so predictable. Then came an extraordinary speech from a deputy for the diocese of Olympia who reported that she has cohabited with her boyfriend for the past six years, that despite the persuasive efforts of friends and family she has no intention of marrying or having children, and that she "feels that the church's silence about such relationships is passive judgement." It was surprising enough that a person in such a state of life should be both a General Convention deputy and a Sunday School teacher as she is, but to then have the brass neck to commend her way of life as acceptable and deserving of church approval was remarkable. Such a speech provides a snap shot of the extent to which the Episcopal Church has complacently accepted the norms and outcomes of the sexual revolution as it has worked its way through western culture. The issue for them is no longer what does God want and expect of Christians in intimate relationships, but rather how can the church validate a variety of what were formerly seen as irregular relationships as normative and approved, as secular society does. The Episcopal Church is taking its bearings from a surrounding culture and social order that is less and less influenced by the gospel, and is thereby diminishing the power of the gospel to order and renew its life.

### **Parish Contacts.**

**Parish Priest:** Fr Hugh Bowron - 455- 3961

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**[www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz](http://www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz)**